



**Abdullahi An-Na'im speaks to Bill Liddle's undergraduate class after his event at the Mershon Center. The roundtable format allowed for students to engage with the speaker and ask questions about his presentation.**



**Georges Tamer, M.S. Sofia Chair in Arabic Studies in the Near Eastern Languages and Cultures department, introduces speaker Abdullahi An-Na'im for the fourth and final speaker of this year's Islam and Democracy speaker series.**





**Abdullahi An-Na'im is Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory University. An-Na'im's talk titled, "The Constitutional Incoherence of Islam as the Official Religion of the State," discussed how almost all the constitutions of Muslim majority countries stipulate that Islam is the religion of the state. Many constitutions also stipulate that Shari'a is the source of legislation. In his lecture, An-Na'im argued that such provisions are not only incoherent, as the state is incapable of having a religion or enforce Shari'a as such, but also inconsistent with the principle of constitutionalism itself.**



**An audience of almost 80 people came to listen to Abdullahi An-Na'im speak to the Mershon Center for International Security Studies. This event was co-sponsored by Honors and Scholars, Department of Political Science, Middle East Studies Center, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, and Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.**



**Alam Payind, director of the Middle East Studies Center at The Ohio State University, asks Abdullahi An-Na'im a question during his presentation.**





**From left to right: Abdullahi An-Na'im, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory University, Georges Tamer, M.S. Sofia Chair in Arabic Studies at The Ohio State University, and Bill Liddle, professor of political science at The Ohio State University.**